

REMARKS

Claims 5, 10, 14 and 18 are pending in this Application. By this Amendment, claims 5, 9, 10, 13, 14 and 18 are amended, and claims 1-4, 13, 16 and 17 are canceled. Support for claims 5, 10, 14, and 18, can be found, for example, in original claims 1, 4 and 16. Support for amended claims 9 and 13 can be found, for example, in paragraphs [0036], [0038], [0040] and [0063]. Thus, no new matter is added. In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 5-8, 10-12, 14, 15, 18 and 19. Claims 5, 10, 14 and 18 have been rewritten in independent form.

Claims 9 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 9 and 13 have been amended to overcome the rejection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over DE 10032340-A; and claims 1-4, 16 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Kojo et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,041,887). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The above amendments render the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejections moot. Withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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